

488-498 South Meyer Avenue
Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico)
Tucson
Pima County
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-73-32

HABS,
ARIZ,
10-TUCSO,
30/32-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BARRIO LIBRE (Barrio Historico)

488-498 SOUTH MEYER AVENUE

HABS No. AZ-73-32

Location: 488-498 S. Meyer Ave., Tucson, Pima County, Arizona

USGS Tucson Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 12.502680 .3563970

Present Owners: Lee Tew Wah and Billy Wong
(Also owners of Lucky's Market, adjoining.)

Present Occupants: #490 Luisa Green #494 Francisco Diaz
#492 Vacant #496 Victoria García
#498 Vacant

Present Use: Residential/Apartments

Significance: This row of adobe Mission Revival style apartments is set flush with the street and adjoins the buildings on either side of it in the Sonoran tradition. The sculptured parapet and vent openings add a decorative element to the otherwise plain exterior. The structure contributes to the planar qualities of the South Meyer Avenue streetscape.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1890-1897
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: See chain of title below.

Block 242, Lot 1.

1890 Deed, April 1, 1890, recorded in Volume 21, page 437.
Sheriff of Pima County to Thomas Gill.

1901 Deed, October 12, 1901, recorded in Volume 32, page 380.
Territory of Arizona to Thomas Gill.

1913 Deed, April 29, 1913, recorded in Volume 56, page 41.
Estate of Thomas Gill to Anna Charouleau.

1923 Deed, May 8, 1923, recorded in Volume 93, page 132.
Anna Charouleau to Wong Shee Ben.

- 1954 Deed, September 21, 1954, recorded in Volume 756, page 49.
Wong Shee Ben to Wong Wing Suey.
- 1961 Deed, July 11, 1961, recorded in Volume 1801, page 449.
Wong Wing Suey to Wong Fung (Lee Taw Wah).
- 1961 Deed, September 28, 1961, recorded in Volume 1836, page 284.
Wong to Beppler.
- 1961 Deed, September 28, 1961, recorded in Volume 1836, page 286.
Beppler to Wong.
- 1963 Deed, July 30, 1963, recorded in SCP no. 31827.
Estate of Fung Mong Pay Nam Wong.
- 1977 Deed, October 21, 1977, recorded in Volume 5636, page 899.
D. A. Rosen to L. T. Wah.
- 1977 Deed, October 21, 1977, recorded in Volume 5636, page 901.
L. T. Wah to D. A. Rosen.
- 1977 Deed, October 21, 1977, recorded in Volume 5636, page 902.
P. N. Wong to L. T. Wah.

4. Builder: Unknown.

5. Alterations and additions: This block of apartments may have been constructed as part of the adjoining building to the north, at 486 S. Meyer Ave., known as Lucky's Market. Early Sanborn maps show the two structures as having common widths. It appears as though the apartments were either rebuilt or remodeled after 1919 to create more dwelling units and to extend them farther to the rear. The two buildings no longer appear to have been built as one. (See 486 S. Meyer Ave., AZ-73-31.)

B. Historical Persons and Events Connected with the Structure:

From the time of their construction, to the present, these apartments have housed a large number of short-term, Spanish-speaking, working-class tenants.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION (See Significance, above, and Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico) (HABS No. AZ-73) for site plan and historical background essay.)

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps, 1909, 1914, 1919, 1948.

Tract Books, Pioneer National Title Insurance Company (Microfilm, Recorder's records).

Tucson City Directories, 1897-1979.

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Historic American Buildings Survey
September 1980

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service's National Architectural and Engineering Record (NAER) in cooperation with the Tucson Barrio Association, Inc. Funds for the project were provided by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and the Arizona State Office of Economic Planning and Development. Under the direction of Robert Kapsch, Chief of NAER, John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1980 at the HABS field office in Tucson, Arizona, by Robert C. Giebner, Project Supervisor (Professor of Architecture, University of Arizona); William Joseph Graham, Project Foreman (University of Maryland; Ann E. Huston, Project Historian (California State University, Sacramento); Maureen L. Gerhold, Assistant Historian (Pennsylvania State University); Student Architects Scott Marshall Dolph (University of Arizona); Carol Jean Lemon (Washington State University); and Harrison Adam Sutphin (Virginia Tech); and Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Summer Youth Employment Program Interns: Maria Arric (Tucson High School); Ernest Cota; Lupita Lopez (Tucson High School); and Anna Trinidad. Photographic records were made for HABS by David J. Kaminsky, Photographer, Roswell, New Mexico. Editing and final preparation of the documentation was carried out in 1981 in the HABS Washington Office by William Joseph Graham, Architect, and Lucy Pope Wheeler, Writer/Editor, of the HABS professional staff.

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ADDENDUM TO
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U.S. Department of the Interior
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